**Notes of a voyage to California via Cape Horn in the years of 1849-'50 (Modified)**

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| SACRAMENTO CITY is, right now, the second largest and most wealthy city in California. Its population is estimated at from five to seven thousand. A year ago it contained barely half a dozen tents and shanties, and a bridle-path [horse trail] led from the bank of the Sacramento River to Sutter's Fort.  Its growth during the past ten months has been almost magical.. Circumstances have established a level playing field, from which everyone has an equal chance to rise. Virtue is the only sure guarantee of success. Neither business nor capital can oppress labor in California…  It is easily seen that the people here are generally independent. All classes are alike dependent upon each other. The rich men of to-day were adventurers yesterday. How natural, then, that the rich should respect work, by which they have accomplished their success. Many people are proud that they have become successful because of their hard work. Labor will continue to hold the first position in California. Rich and exhaustless as are her natural resources, they have slumbered in the bowels of the earth since creation, and the world could never be benefited by them, without the judicious application of bone and muscle-- *the real capital of the world*. |

**SUMMARY**  
Samuel Curtis Upham (1819-1885) was a clerk in a Philadelphia merchant house when he decided to try his luck in California in January, 1849. Sailing round the Horn, he visited Rio de Janeiro and Talcahuana before landing in San Francisco. After a brief career as a gold miner at the Calaveras diggings, Upham moved to Sacramento, where he published the Sacramento Transcript, May-August 1850. Notes of a voyage to California (1878) includes Upham's memoirs of his early years in California, with special attention to Sacramento's colorful history in 1850. He closes his narrative with a brief description of his return to Philadelphia that same year via Panama. The book's lengthy appendix contains chapters on California journalism, the California exhibition at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, and various reunion dinners and other events sponsored by the California "Pioneers" association.